

ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
22 Queen St. E. Elmvale, ON L0L 1P0



The Presbyterian Church in Canada



"Elmvale Presbyterian Church is a Christian Community where everyone is welcome sharing God's love through worship, music, prayer, teaching and outreach for 165 Years in our Community."



"Back to School & the Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday!"

Service Date: Sunday September 6, 2026

Minister: Rev Tom Mason

Please stand for the entry of the Bible, if you are able

**WE PAUSE FOR A MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION TO
PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

Gracious God of grace and peace,

We step out of a loud world and into Your quiet presence. We
silence our racing thoughts. We lay down our heavy burdens.

We breathe in Your peace. Speak to our hearts in this stillness.
Reveal Yourself to us today.
This we pray in the strong name of Jesus, **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Marlene Lambie, Clerk of
Session

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Janice Terry

Leader: Come, let us turn our hearts to the One who knows us,
loves us, and calls us by name.

**People: We come seeking wisdom, comfort, and direction for
the journey ahead.**

Leader: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your
own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will
make your paths straight."

**People: We bring our doubts, our plans, and our hope, placing
them trusting in His hands.**

Leader: The God who created the heavens and the earth walks
beside you in every room, through every challenge, and into every
new season.

**People: We will not be afraid; our strength and our courage
come from the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord together with joy, gratitude, and
expectant hearts!

People: Amen! Let us praise His holy name!

HYMN #476 Amigos De Christo

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION, & LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer of Adoration (responsive)

Leader: God of grace and power, we lift our hearts to You—the
Creator of all things and the source of all light.

**People: You are timeless, wise, and holy, holding our lives with
unshakeable truth and love.**

Leader: Loving God, today we bring our children, parents and
teachers before You as they prepare to return to school, step into
new classrooms, and embark on new journeys of learning.

**People: We place their minds, hearts, and steps into Your safe
and loving hands.**

Leader: Grant them wisdom to learn, curiosity to discover, and courage to face every new challenge with confidence.

People: Surround them with kind friends, patient teachers, and peaceful environments where they can grow.

Leader: When they may feel nervous, overwhelmed, or uncertain, remind them that You are always by their side, walking every hallway with them.

People: Protect their spirits, keep them safe, and fill their hearts with Your joy, grace, and strength this school year.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Leader: Merciful God, You call us to walk in Your light, yet we confess how quickly we turn toward our own understanding and selfish ways.

People: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we rely on our own strength instead of trusting in You.

Leader: We confess that fear, pride, and impatience often shape our actions, leaving little room for Your peace and truth to guide our steps.

People: Cleanse our hearts, renewal our minds, and teach us to follow You with humility.

Leader: For the moments we have failed to show Your kindness, love our neighbors, or act as faithful stewards of the gifts You have given us—

People: Have mercy on us, Lord, and restore the joy of Your salvation within us.

Leader: By Your great mercy, renew our minds, reshape our hearts, and restore our unity. Help us to live out our confession every day, as we pray the words that Jesus taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Leader: Hear the good news of the gospel: God does not hold our sins against us, nor does He abandon us to our own mistakes. Because of the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, your sins are completely forgiven. You are washed clean, restored, and made new.

People: Praise God! Through His grace, we are forgiven, accepted, and free to step forward in faith.

Leader: Walk today in the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit, knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God!

FAMILY HYMN#555 Worship The Lord

FAMILY TIME "The Blessing of the Back Packs"

Our Congregations Back to School Prayer (unison)

Heavenly Father,

As a new school year begins, we place our school community into Your care:

EPC prays for all Students: Grant them curious minds, kind hearts, and confidence to learn and grow.

EPC prays for their Parents: Give them patience, peace, and grace through every busy routine.

We pray for all Teachers & Staff: Supply them with energy, compassion, and wisdom to inspire every room.

Bless them all this year with confidence, safety, joy, and success.

Amen.

Solo Sylvia Tollar

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HOLY SCRIPTURE Marlene Lambie

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Joshua 1:9

9 I hereby command you: **Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed**, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Colossians 3:23–24

23 Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters,

24 since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE “What’s in your Backpack?” By Rev Tom.

HYMN #634 Will You Come And Follow Me?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Isabel Savage

Invitation to the Offering

September always brings a sense of fresh beginnings. A wonderful way to start any new chapter is with an act of shared generosity. When we give to this faith community, we invest directly in hope, care, and the spiritual nurture of people of all ages. Let’s take this moment to give back to God a portion of what we’ve been given, celebrating the joy of a new season together.

Doxology #79

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below:
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, our provider and guide, bless these gifts and online offerings today. Transform them into comfort, learning, and care for those who need it most. Go before our students, staff, and families as they step through new school doors this week. Free them from anxiety, surround them with good friendships, and use us all to shine your light. **Amen.**

HYMN #641 One More Step Along The World I Go

GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

May the blessing of God Almighty—the Father who loves you infinitely, the Son who clothes you in His righteousness, and the Holy Spirit who binds you together in unity—rest upon you and give you and your family peace, both now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

Go Now In Peace

Congregational Announcements & Events

Thank you to Sylvia Tollar for your beautiful solo.

Good morning congregation.

My friend Lora, who organized my trip, has reached out to let us know that she and her family are safe.

Lora is part of the United Mission of Nepal, which the Presbyterian Church is part of, and they are now collecting funds to help those who need it the most after the disastrous situation of the mudslides in Nepal.

We as Canadians can donate to this through the Presbyterian Sharing. Funds will go directly to the families to help rebuild.

Thanks Linda

Mon Sept 07 – Let's Do Lunch Phone In 9-12pm

Wed Sept 09 – Salad making for catered even

Wed Sept 09 –Quilting 1pm

Thurs Sept 10 – Let's Do Lunch 12-1pm

Thurs Sept 10 – Choir 7pm

Sun Sept 13 – Welcome back Sun with BBQ & bowling 1-2:30pm –BBQ lunch - Pot Luck Lunch, please bring a salad the rest will be provided by Worship and Nurture. \$10 per bowler (shoes included) and M&O will provide treats and drinks. Bowlers are to

be ready to bowl at 1pm. Please sign up as soon as possible to establish teams.

Sun Sept 06 - Sun Oct 11 – A Hope Story fund has been established to help bring education to children in Kenya. Donations made through your offering designating **Hope Story**

Fri Oct 09 & Sat Oct 10 – A booth at the Fair has been booked to promote EPC and we are planning to give out cookies to those visiting our booth. So please, start your ovens and load up your freezers with cookies.

W&N – Looking for helpers for the nursery as needed.

Monetary Donations auto-deposit: donatetoepc@rogers.com
Please comment where to direct the donation; 1) General 2) Presbyterian Sharing 3) PWS&D 4) other missions such as Food Bank, We Care etc.

Food Bank canned pasta, canned vegetables (peas, beans, creamed corn, potatoes), hamburger helper, snack crackers, shampoo, deodorant, & dish soap.

Fire Safety – Please make sure all doors are closed when you are leaving the church